SAFETY DIVISION SAFETY GRAM

3/11/2004

Many of our re-deploying Troopers upon their return to FT. Bragg will be buying many things like new cars, motorcycles, and other items such as **firearms**. The years worth of pay that they saved up will cause them to buy items such as firearms that they would have normally not purchased otherwise. They initially will have the desire to have their Airborne Buddy store it at their off post abode while they close the loop on getting the proper documents that will allow them to store it in the units arms room. Most of those Troopers that do live off post have children. Thankfully we have not had the unfortunate incident of having our children involved in a firearm fatality or injury.

An increase of awareness by providing a short briefing should assist us in maintaining this statue. American children are more at risk from firearms than the children of any other industrialized nation. In one year, firearms killed no children in Japan, 19 in Great Britain, 57 in Germany, 109 in France, 153 in Canada, and 5,285 in the United States. (Centers for Disease Control).

America is losing too many children to gun violence/accidents. Between 1979 to date, gunfire killed 90,000 children and teens in America. In one year, more children and teens died from gunfire than from cancer, pneumonia, influenza, asthma, and HIV/AIDS combined.

The rate of firearm deaths among kids under age 15 is almost 12 times higher in the United States than in 25 other industrialized counties combined. That is one child every three hours; eight children every day; and more than 50 children every week. We must strongly urge our Troopers to attain all proper documents/ Commanders authorization forms prior to the purchase of firearms. If it absolutely has to be stored in a home with children, here are some tips on what they can do:

- If they own/store a gun, make sure it is unloaded. Store the weapon and ammunition separately, in a locked box. Keep the key in a separate location and away from young hands. Keep the weapon in a place where a child cannot reach it.

COMMAND ATTENTION REQUIRED

- Ask your neighbor if they have a gun before sending your kids over to play…if NO then one less worry, if YES-make absolutely sure all guns